

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00449 101407 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 027456

P 101327 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9907

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0449

EXDIS

RABAT FOR NEWSOM

E. O. 1165 2: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS LY

SUBJECT: LIBYA AIR SPACE PROBLEM

REF: STATE 069211

1. NOTE BASED ON REFTEL PARAS 1 AND 2 SENT TO MFA
MORNING APRIL 10 (TEXT POUCHED AF/ N).

2. SAME DAY, AT NOON, EMBOFFS PRESENTED COPY OF NOTE
TO MFA DIRECTOR OF TREATIES AND LEGAL AFFAIRS SULAYMAN
ATTIGA, HIGHEST RANKING MFA OFFICIAL AVAILABLE. ATTIGA
STUDIED NOTE CAREFULLY, LISTENED WITHOUT COMMENT TO
VERBAL PRECIS THEREOF AND TO ADDITIONAL REMARKS (REFTEL
PARA 3). EMBOFFS EXPRESSED READINESS TO DISCUSS ANY
POINT IN NOTE; SUGGESTED LARG SHOULD APPRECIATE FACT USG
HAS AND WILL JOY RIGHTS SANCTIONED BY INTERNATIONAL

LAW AND AGREEMENT; AND URGED THAT " CONCERNED
CIRCLES" OF LARG WEIGH POSSIBILITY THEY HAVE
MISUNDERSTOOD SITUATION RATHER THAN TAKE ANY ACTION
SEEKING TO DENY USG ITS RIGHTS.

3. ATTIGA ACKNOWLEDGED HE UNAWARE ANY CHANGE IN LIBYAN
LAW RE TERRITORIAL SEA (12 NM LIMIT) WHEN QUESTION
SECRET

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AROSE. HE ASKED IF LARG HAD ADVISED USG OF ANY CHANGE IN THIS REGARD. EMBOFFS DESCRIBED 1972 DGCA NOTICE RE HLR 22 AND RECOUNTED EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH DGCA THEREAFTER. THEY TOLD ATTIGA THAT PRESENT NOTE FORMALIZES USG POSITION PRESENTED EARLIER TO DGCA.

4. ATTIGA UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE NOTE AND SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS TO "CONCERNED CIRCLES." HE ADDED, "WE WILL DESCRIBE THE SITUATION TO THEM UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW."

5. COMMENT: NO POLEMICS MARRED INTERVIEW. ATTIGA SEEMED PERSONALLY IMPRESSED WITH WEIGHT OF USG ARGUMENTATION AND FACT THAT LIBYAN DGCA'S "AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION PUBLICATION" CONTAINS LANGUAGE IDENTICAL TO EMBASSY NOTE. WE BELIEVE ATTIGA GOT OUR MESSAGE AND WE ARE AS CONFIDENT AS ONE CAN BE IN DEALING VIA LARG BUREAUCRACY THAT RCC WILL GET MESSAGE TOO.
JOSIF

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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